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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE.

GENERAL NOTES.

Although four of the Institute summer schools are still in progress as this number of the BIBLICAL WORLD goes to press, it is possible to give reports of some interest from all. The work at Chautauqua, N. Y., is now in its eighth year as regularly organized Bible work distinguished from the college work. The six weeks of the school have been divided into two sections of three weeks each. All the work has centered about Hebrew History, in order that it might be most helpful to the Sunday school teacher. One hour a day has been devoted to the study of Hebrew history, covering the entire period from the Judges to the Exile. This class has had an average attendance of ninety; the work in the New Testament has been made to harmonize with that of the Old in subject. It has been equally well attended. The instructors in these courses have been Professor Ira M. Price of the University of Chicago, Professor Frank K. Sanders of Yale University, Professor R. F. Weidner of Chicago, Professor Rush Rhees of Newton Centre. President Harper has given a course in the Psalms, taking up the psalms belonging to different periods of Israelitish history. The work in Hebrew and New Testament Greek has been carried through the entire six weeks. The beginners in Hebrew have accomplished a sufficient amount of work to enable them to receive credit for a year's work in Hebrew in a seminary. This is remarkable progress for six weeks, but when one considers that the student of Hebrew is expected to spend five hours a day at least in his study and recitation, the result is not to be wondered at. Nearly 200 students have been enrolled in the various classes. They represent almost every occupation in life and nearly every religious denomination. The work at Chautauqua has from the beginning been in the hands of the best teachers. The foundation, therefore, which a teacher finds for work with the classes at Chautauqua is exceptionally good. Many of the students return from year to year, and the classes may thereby be carried along on the basis of work done in previous years.

In the University of Chicago the summer courses of the first term which has just been completed have been under the charge of President Harper, Professor R. F. Harper, Dr. Breasted, Mr. Votaw, Professor Mathews and Dr. Arnolt. The work in this institution differs from that in other summer schools in requiring regular university work under university restrictions on the part of the students. While the requirements for admission are not so rigid as in the other quarters of the year, the standard of work is not lowered,

and therefore the constituency of the classes is necessarily higher than in other summer schools. In the beginning Hebrew work there have been twenty students enrolled and in the advanced work in Hebrew a still larger number. Nine persons have also been studying Arabic and eight have taken up Assyrian. A course has been given by Professor Shailer Mathews on "The Social History of New Testament Times," and the New Testament Courses by Mr. Votaw. The lectures of Principal Fairbairn of Mansfield College, Oxford, aroused much interest and enthusiasm. The largest hall available on the campus was crowded daily. The subject of the lecture was "The Philosophy of Religion." Professor Bruce of Glasgow commences with the second term two courses of lectures, one on Agnosticism, and the other on "The Historical Foundations of Faith." Professor Gregory of Leipzig begins his work in New Testament Greek with the second term.

At the Bay View Assembly two instructors were present, Professor Frank K. Sanders of Yale, and Professor Edward L. Parks of Atlanta, Ga. Two courses were given by each instructor,—a general course by each on methods of Bible teaching and study, and a special course on Old Testament history and literature from the book of Job. The enrollment (twenty-eight) was large in consideration of the fact that a tuition fee corresponding to the fees in other departments was charged. This is one of the few assemblies where biblical instruction is placed on the same plane with other instruction. Free biblical instruction has unfortunately come to be expected as a matter of course. Several open conferences on the work of the Institute were held.

The Central New York assembly is still in session. Rev. Dean A. Walker is presenting the subject of Messianic Prophecy in a course of ten lectures to a general audience, there being no organized school at this place.

At the Silver Lake Assembly Mr. Walker gave eighteen lectures on the Christ in Prophecy and Fulfilment, and on the Life of Christ. Notwithstanding a most unfavorable hour of the day and amid many other attractions, Mr. Walker succeeded in holding a good number of students and establishing a permanent interest in systematic Bible study at the Silver Lake Assembly.

At Lake Madison, South Dakota, Rev. Edward L. Parks gave ten interesting lectures on the Bible from an Educational Point of View. Although this is one of the smaller assemblies, the Bible work has been conducted systematically for some years and the attendance was as good as at some of the larger assemblies.

Professor Lincoln Hulley of Bucknell University conducted both the Lakeside, Ohio, and Monteagle, Tenn. Schools. The latter of these is still in progress and no reports have been received. This is the first season of Institute work at an assembly so far south as Monteagle. An effort will be made to add other southern assemblies next season. The work at Lakeside is in its third year, and has been constantly growing in interest. Hebrew as well as the English Bible is taught. There is an average daily attendance of

200 in the English Bible classes, and on special days there were as many as 600 present. The audience at Lakewood expressed its approval of the Institute work at that assembly by a rising vote upon resolutions of approval which were presented by one of the class.

At Ottawa, Kas., Dr. Charles F. Kent organized the first work of the Institute in connection with that assembly. His lectures upon Hebrew History were attended by several hundred people daily. No regular class work was introduced, as so many were anxious to hear the lectures that they were necessarily made public. The work was so successful that it will be continued from year to year.

At Winfield, Kas., the Rev. H. L. Willett, Field Secretary of the Institute, gave two courses of study; one in the Old Testament and one in the New. Here, as at Ottawa, the work was most enthusiastically received. These two assemblies represent the best element of the West. They are well established, Ottawa being one of the oldest Chautauqua assemblies. The people who attend them are enthusiastic, but with an enthusiasm which lasts. And there is no question but that Bible study in western towns will receive a great incentive from the work done at these assemblies this year.

Work is now in progress at Macatawa Park, Mich., under the direction of Rev. H. L. Willett, and before this journal reaches its readers, a school at Howell, Mich., covering one week of work with Professor Charles F. Kent and Mr. C. W. Votaw will have closed. Looking back over the summer there seems to be many facts to inspire the Institute workers, and steady healthful growth which promises much for the future.

As the summer work closes, we turn with interest to the work of the winter which will spread itself from Maine to California and through many foreign lands. Five thousand people were last year receiving instruction in their homes through the Institute. It is surely not too much to hope that this number may this year be doubled. Announcements of all departments of the work are now ready and will be freely sent together with other literature helpful in arousing an interest in Bible study, to all those who address the Institute. The work of the Bible Student's Reading Guild and of the Study course for Young People's organizations commences October 1. Let every one inform himself concerning these courses before that time by addressing the American Institute of Sacred Literature, Hyde Park, Chicago.